

Statement by  
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President  
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2007 Farm Bill Re-authorization Field Hearing  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Suite 214  
Sacramento, California

**The Research Title**

Good afternoon Secretary Kawamura,

My name is John Welty, President of California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) and I commend you for hosting this hearing on the re-authorization of the 2007 Farm Bill currently being discussed in the Congress. Mr. Secretary you have successfully positioned the California Department of Food and Agriculture as the lead state agency representing California in this important public policy debate. I look forward to working with you to insure our success with this important piece of legislation.

California State University, Fresno is the preeminent agricultural university within the nation's largest non-land grant university system, the 23 campus California State University System. Fresno State is uniquely qualified and positioned to be the nation's flagship research and higher education institution to lead such a broad-based and diverse research effort. Fresno State has a long and distinguished heritage partnering with and serving the California and United States agricultural industry, allied agribusinesses, and their ultimate consumers. Its College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (CAST) and California Agricultural Technology Institute (CATI) are nationally and internationally recognized for their respective science and economics based academic and applied research programs.

The California State University Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI), which CATI administers from Fresno State, is the most prominent and practical organization to administer on-going national specialty crop research, promotion, education, outreach and technology transfer programs. The ARI is an experienced partner with the specialty crop industry and collaborating with other academic research institutions. Its administrative, programmatic, and financial support structures are well respected and established.

The ARI is a diverse and comprehensive multi-campus applied agricultural and environmental research program that annually leverages public funding with external resources at least one-to-one to fund research, on high priority issues challenging agriculture, the environment and consumer health and safety. It focuses the collective expertise of the California State University four colleges of agriculture at California State

University, Fresno; California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Chico collaboratively with that of qualified faculty and research scientists from other universities and appropriate research organizations on finding immediate and practical solutions for priority issues. Its research, education, outreach and technology transfer activities augment, enhance and extend the basic research conducted by the nation's land grant universities. Its project and program results are made widely available in the public domain and technology transfer assistance and information dissemination are provided directly to producers, processors and consumers.

ARI focuses on finding solutions for strategic gaps in our knowledge base that otherwise might not be studied by for-profit companies and institutions because there is little or no specific monetary incentive to do so. Thus ARI research covers a vast spectrum, including such topics as pest and invasive species control, biodiversity, biotechnology, food science, and improved packaging and shipping techniques. ARI program benefits extend well beyond farm gate receipts to include improvements in public health and safety, environmental conditions, regional economic development, and international competitiveness.

The 2007 Farm Bill should allocate financial resources to promoting more efficient systems to protect our natural resources and expand renewable energy opportunities. Fresno State, in collaboration with a growing consortium of members in the water, urban, environmental and agricultural technology industries have joined together to form the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT). ICWT is uniquely positioned to deliver technology development assistance, research and development, industry testing, certification as well as education and training opportunities. ICWT promotes the next generation of technologies that will increase water and energy use effectiveness in solar, biofuels, urban, commercial, agricultural and environmental applications. As worldwide demand for limited water and energy supplies increases, the International Center for Water Technology will advance new technologies that make possible more efficient management, recycling, transporting, distributing, and conserving of water and energy resources.

California State University, Fresno is committed to an on-going partnership with the agricultural industry; integral to current specialty crop, natural resources and renewable energy research activities; and geographically well positioned and poised in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley to collaboratively assist the nation's agricultural sector.

Mr. Secretary, as you and Governor Schwarzenegger formulate your priorities and recommendations as a result of these 2007 Farm Bill Field Hearings, I encourage you to support the Agricultural Research Initiative and International Center for Water Technology at Fresno State.

Once again, thank you for hosting this hearing. I look forward to any questions you may have.

cc: Members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
Members of the House Agriculture Committee  
California Congressional Delegation  
USDA Secretary Michael Johanns